



## Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office

### Trial Court Services Division

Michigan Hall of Justice

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Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Jennifer Warner  
Director

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 21, 2014

TO: District Court Judges  
cc: Clerks of the Court  
District Court Administrators

FROM: Bobbi Morrow

RE: 2013 PA 191  
Garnishment for Failure to Pay Fines Ordered Under the Home Rule Cities Act

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With the passage of 2013 PA 191, effective March 14, 2014, the Legislature has enacted new penalties against property owners as a way to address blight. One of these new penalties allows a city to file a garnishment action against a property owner to collect the fines or costs that were ordered as a result of an administrative process designed to adjudicate blight violations. The garnishment may be filed as long as the defendant has not appealed the order for fines or costs pursuant to MCL 117.4q or the city has not obtained a lien under MCL 117.4r. The writ of garnishment must be issued immediately after the garnishment action is filed with the court.

The clerk should open the case with a "GC" case type code and should treat the case similar to an enforcement of a foreign judgment. For those courts that utilize DCS-JIS, the disposition should be noted as "Other Disposition."

Any questions should be directed to me at [morrowb@courts.mi.gov](mailto:morrowb@courts.mi.gov).